

Putting it Together: Customizing Your PM Approach with Tailoring

Tim Mawhinney
IT Project Manager

Tailoring

Definitions of tailoring

- 1. To make (a garment), especially to specific requirements or measurements.
- 2. To fit or provide (a person) with clothes made to that person's measurements.



3. To make, alter, or adapt for a particular end or purpose:



Tailoring

- Involves waiving particular life cycle phases, activities, deliverables or reviews based on specific project requirements or business needs
- Tailoring is completed during the Planning Phase of the project and is documented in the Project Process Agreement deliverable.

Tailoring



The purpose of the PPA:

- Authorizes and documents the justifications for using, not using or combining specific EPLC components
- Authorizes and documents the selection of specific deliverables applicable to the investment or project including the expected level of detail to be provided

The purpose of the WBS:

- Defines the timeline, dependencies, and resource needs with regard to the projects activities and deliverables
- Provides a working schedule to complete the activities/ deliverables



A Mandate to Tailor

- Federal IT Management Reform
 - Plan smaller, more manageable "chunks"
 - Acceleration of deliverables usable functionality quicker
 - Incorporate "best practice" approaches
 - Improve resource utilization
- EPLC Tailoring a integral part of the EPLC Framework
- IT just makes good sense



Tailoring Should Take into Account Specific Circumstances ...

- Size
- Risk
- Schedule
- Acquisition Strategy
- Development Methodology
- Scope of influence
- Not Because "we just don't want to do a particular activity!"



The Following Cannot be Waived

- Business need
- Correct, clear, adequate requirements functional/non functional
- Following processes that ensure operation within the as-is and to-be enterprise architecture
- Adequate testing
- Appropriate O&M documentation



Framework vs. Approach – Best Practice

EPLC Objective: Provide assurance of consistently achieving successful outcomes that maximize alignment with goals and objectives

Establishes the methodologies to be adopted and applied

COBIT

Project Management Framework



PO10.2



Establish an approach commensurate with the size, complexity and requirements of each project

Project Management Approach



PO10.3



Parting Thoughts...



Plan the project approach carefully.



"Risk comes from not knowing what you're doing." Warren Buffett

Don't let this be said about your key project deliverables.



"This report, by its very length, defends itself against the risk of being read." Winston Churchill

